



Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

1601 Alhambra Blvd
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www.post.ca.gov

Date: December 2, 2008

Bulletin: No. 2008-21

**Subject: Peace Officer Educational Requirements (GC 1031(e)) Broadened with
Passage of SB 1241**

Senate Bill 1241 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 30, 2008 and will become effective on January 1, 2009. Included in this bill was an amendment developed by POST to broaden the minimum educational standards for peace officers in Government Code 1031(e). Currently, for a non-public high school to meet the current statutory minimum, it must be accredited by an association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE); however, the DOE focuses only on recognizing colleges, not high schools. As a consequence, many peace officer candidates who received diplomas from bona fide private high schools have been forced to take the GED. As a result of SB 1241, GC 1031(e) will recognize four additional associations that oversee the accreditation of private institutions: the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA), the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), and the National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA).

As it currently reads, only two-year and four-year college degrees satisfy GC 1031(e). As a result of SB 1241, advanced college degrees (e.g., masters, doctorate) from accredited colleges and universities will also satisfy GC 1031(e) educational requirements.

The following GC 1031(e) educational criteria remain unchanged:

- A high school diploma from public U.S. high schools accredited in the states in which it is located, including fully accredited U.S. Department of Defense high schools located within or outside of the United States.
- A high school diploma from a non-public high school accredited to issue such diplomas by the state department of education of the state in which it is located or by a regional accrediting association.
- A California High School Proficiency Certificate.
- A General Education Development certificate (GED) indicating high school graduation.

Attached is the text of the revised GC 1031(e).



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Please direct questions to Supervision Personnel Selection Consultant, Shelley Spilberg, Ph.D., Commission on POST, 1601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95816-7083, by email at Shelley.Spilberg@post.ca.gov, by telephone at (916) 227-4824, or by FAX at (916) 227-0476.

PAUL A. CAPPITELLI
Executive Director

Attachment: Text of the revised GC 1031(e)



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ATTACHMENT

**CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE 1031(e)
Peace Officer Minimum Educational Standards**

JANUARY 1, 2009

e) Be a high school graduate, pass the General Education Development Test indicating high school graduation level, pass the California High School Proficiency Examination, or have attained a two-year, four-year, or advanced degree from an accredited college or university. The high school shall be either a United States public school, an accredited United States Department of Defense high school, or an accredited or approved public or nonpublic high school. Any accreditation or approval required by this paragraph shall be from a state or local government educational agency using local or state government approved accreditation, licensing, registration, or other approval standards, a regional accrediting association, an accrediting association recognized by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, an accrediting association holding full membership in the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA), an organization holding full membership in the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), an organization holding full membership in the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), or an accrediting association recognized by the National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA) .